

CAPE FEAR AGRICULTURAL FAIR.

THE OPENING DAY.

The Exhibition a Decided Success.

THE BEAUTY, INTELLIGENCE AND ENERGY OF THE STATE REPRESENTED.

ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT FREMONT.

Horticultural and Pomological Department, etc., etc.

The President and Executive Committee of the Cape Fear Agricultural Association have not only successfully managed to make the first day of this Association worthy of our section, the state and our age; and Heaven seemed yesterday to smile upon their efforts by sending us an opening day as bright, as calm, and as pleasant as ever people, even in our temperate climate, were blessed with at this season.

Even earlier than was anticipated the cars were thronged with visitors on route to the Fair grounds, while numbers of vehicles came along the county road, depositing their loads to swell the list of visitors. By 11 o'clock the grounds presented a lively aspect, and one could not move in any direction without confronting some well-remembered face.

The absence of many of our Wilmingtonians was a cause of regret to us, but the places of those who were absent were filled by friends from other sections, who seemed to manifest a commendable degree of interest in this our first Annual Fair.

THE GROUNDS.

Though but two or three months ago the site of the present Fair Grounds was a perfect forest, yesterday exhibited a large cleared tract where ample facilities were afforded for the accommodation of visitors and the display of articles. A broad, smooth and perfectly cleared tract greeted the eye upon which were assembled everything that could contribute to opportunity and enjoyment.

The Exhibition Hall, three stories high, was ample large and all sufficient for the accommodation of visitors, being an imposing edifice constructed with a view to the wants of the Association, and with every facility which accommodation could suggest. On the ground floor was the proper place for the display of cooking stoves, agricultural implements, etc. On the second floor was Floral Hall, where most of the fancy articles were displayed. The third floor would make a most excellent dancing hall.

THE ATTENDANCE.

Was fully as large as that at the State Fair on the first day, realizing two thousand persons fully, which will be greatly augmented to-day by the arrival of trains since the exhibition yesterday. In attendance as well as the interest manifested, our first Fair promises to be a decided success.

THE FAIR OPENED.

About noon, the signal for the opening of the Fair was given. The procession around the grounds was formed and started on the infantry march. It was headed by the Marshal and his assistants on horseback, followed by the fine band of the 8th Regiment, behind which marched in excellent order the corps of Cadets of the Cape Fear Academy under command of Gen. R. E. Colston, the principal. Then followed the officers of the Association, members of the press and invited guests in carriages. After proceeding around the grounds the procession halted in front of the Exhibition Hall. Here, at the request of the Association, the following prayers were delivered by Rev. A. A. Watson, D. D., Rector of St. James' Church in this city:

"O Lord our God, exalting great, who art clothed with majesty and power, who stretchest out thy hand and rulest the world by thy almighty power, who commandest the clouds by thy word, and who dost walk upon the winds: Grant us, O Lord, that we may be blessed in all, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

"God our refuge and strength, who judgest among the nations, who makest war to cease; who dost break the bow, and shatter the lance, and who dost give peace in our time: O Lord, that without sacrifice of day or of true honour, the sword may be broken into the plowshare, that we may learn the art of peace, and the power of self defence, may not fear the power of our adversaries. Through the merit of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

"God, who appointest the moon her seasons, and the sun to know his going down, and makest the morning and evening to be known; who openest the doors of Heaven, who causeth the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; who dost make the lightning for the rain, and dost bring the winds out of thy treasures, and dost prepare the rain for the earth, who causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and the herbs for the service of man: Bless, we beseech thee, the labors of the husbandmen, that the pasture may be clothed with flocks, and the field with corn; that our barns may be filled with plenty, and our presses burst out with new wine; and that the year be unto us a year of plenty. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

"O God, the Creator of the spirits of all flesh, who dost make the heart to be wise, and nothing without thee: Who hast made the hearing ear, and the seeing eye, from whom cometh the wisdom, which teacheth us to know the things which are not seen, and who dost give us the knowledge of thy will: Bless, we beseech thee, the diligence, and skill, and enterprise of the contrivers, and the hands that make the things that we use, and all thy gifts of hand, or body, or outward circumstance, with suitable humility and gratitude. That, as thou hast commanded, we may know the things that are not seen, and with the first fruits of all our increase, giving glory to thee, the author of every good gift. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

"At the conclusion of the opening prayers the President, Col. Fremont, delivered the following ADDRESS OF WELCOME."

Ladies, Fellow-citizens and Gentlemen of the Cape Fear Agricultural Association: We are here to-day to inaugurate our first Annual Fair.

We are here to meet and welcome the people of every County, State or Nation to our first Exposition of the works of nature and of art.

This is the third time the members of this Association have been convened. Our first two meetings were held in your city, to-day by the liberality of New-Haven society, we assemble upon our own soil.

Six months ago and the ground upon which we now stand was covered with a pine forest.

We make no pretensions to any excellence in our arrangements, nothing has been perfected—we are in a state of imperfection, but hope before another year rolls around, to have these grounds much improved.

On the 19th day of December last a few ardent and determined men assembled in the city of Wilmington, and set this hall in motion.

The people, city and country, have taken it up and rolled it on, until we are to-day enabled to begin the first Agricultural, Mechanical and Commercial Fair ever held in the Cape Fear country.

At our regular annual meeting on the 24th day of January last, the Executive Committee was instructed to take efficient steps and do all things needful for holding this Fair.

How well that Committee has done its duty, we leave for you to say.

Commencing without grounds, without funds, and without credit or means of any kind, it has been able—thanks to the generous and liberal men and city of Wilmington and county of New-Haven—to procure the result before you.

We have done what we could to make our

friends comfortable and to "feel at home" with us for a few days.

And now, Gentlemen, do you ask me what the Cape Fear people expect to accomplish by this organization and the holding of these Annual Fairs? I will tell you what we hope to effect,—yes, what we expect to accomplish:

We desire to improve the methods of culture, and thus increase the amount of agricultural and horticultural productions of this country.

We desire to improve the mechanical and manufacturing skill of North Carolina, and thereby enable her to occupy the position she is entitled to hold with her sister commonwealths of the Union.

We desire to enlarge the field of commercial operations of the city and port of Wilmington, by assembling the people here annually, where all may see and know each other, and learn the advantages and facilities for business that our Cape Fear country affords.

In a word, we desire to inaugurate a perpetual war upon Ignorance, Idleness and Prejudice.

The men of this Association feel as we all should feel, that intelligent husbandry and skilled labor must be introduced among us, before our people can realize in a material sense the natural advantages of soil, climate, and easy access to market which they possess.

A new system of labor was introduced, and as we had emerged from the most gigantic civil war of modern times, with homes desolated, altars and firesides in ruins; with fields more frequently plowed by artillery than by the implements of husbandry; our manufacturing establishments almost all having been given to the flames; and our men fallen in battle, and our people reduced to penury!

What then was the duty of the hour? What work devolved upon us? Should we, like whipped school boys, sit down and whine and weep, and lament the loss of the first revolutionary men who fought and won their independence, quail before difficulties such as these? Should we, the people of North Carolina, who sent nearly one hundred thousand stalwart men to the field in the late struggle, hesitate in our duty to ourselves and our posterity?

No! No!! Heaven forbid it!!! Our duty was and is too plain to be mistaken.

We who had literally beaten our pruning hooks and our plow shares into swords, and our battle-axes into bayonets, should we hesitate in the work of rebuilding our homes; should we, the people of this old dominion, after doing our duty to the power of the sword, and to the sword of the pen, and to our children, by failing promptly to reconstruct our war-weapons into pruning hooks, and by going forth in our strength to subdue and replenish the earth!

"Look not mournfully into the Past: It comes not mournfully to thee; it is thine; Go forth to meet the dark and shadowy future Without fear and with a manly heart."

To encourage the good work, and for mutual instruction in the best methods of doing it, we are here to-day.

We welcome all exhibitors and all visitors, from whatever county or State they come.

We desire to meet all here as brethren of one great household, as children of a common ancestry and heritage, who seek to learn and be learned, who desire to know and be known.

We meet as men for a common purpose, and that purpose is to make our people prosperous and our country great. We are here to-day to assemble the balance of the following prayers were delivered by Rev. A. A. Watson, D. D., Rector of St. James' Church in this city:

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mile heats, best two in three. On the 1st heat Wilmington came in 2:18; second, 1:27; third, 1:32, thus winning the race.

Next on hand came a running race between Prince Henry, entered by B. C. Currie; Queen Anne, by C. W. McLammy; Kull-Rex, by Henry, Everett, and Sallie Hill, by Geo. Burghin, colored—mile heat. First half mile Prince Henry ahead, 50 seconds; last half mile, Sallie Hill, ahead, 62 seconds—claimed and awarded race on distance.

HOUSES.

The exhibition of houses was much better than we had reasonably anticipated. Many fine stations, broad marces and match houses were presented. None so greatly pleased our eye as Orphan Boy, a fine station, entered for beauty and appearance and breeding, by Mr. James Kerr, of this county. Mr. J. W. St. George entered a finely grown filly of two years, and there were many other pleasing entries.

STOCKS.

Principal among the stock were many magnificent Chester hogs, some imported, but many of native growth. These gave to our people a proper idea of what may be done by the raising of proper stock.

POLTERY.

In this department there were many specimens of game, brambles, bantams, scabblers, and other rare and improved breeds. Wild and tame geese, ducks, etc., also were to be seen, presenting a proper idea of the productions of the farm-yard, and also conveying the impression that it could be greatly improved upon.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

On the grounds in proper position were exhibited various improved agricultural implements. Among them were two Taylor's Crown guns, manufactured by W. S. Clemen, Brown, & Co., Augusta, Ga., and exhibited by Messrs. B. C. Currie, of this county, and Walter A. Wood, of cotton, etc. Also a Walter A. Wood's patent mower and reaper, of New York, exhibited by Mitchell, Allen & Co.; and by the same parties a Georgia cotton gin. A silky plow, Cass's patent, exhibited by P. E. Smith of Scotland Neck; plows of all descriptions by Mitchell, Allen & Co.; cotton plow and scraper exhibited by D. O. Richardson of Wilson, and many other useful articles, among which we must not fail to notice the cotton presses of Deasley's & Broke's patents, the last named exhibited and manufactured by Messrs. Hall & Bailey of this city. The latter also exhibited a portable miniature steam fire engine, adapted to the operation of almost any agricultural implement.

Among the manufactured articles we were pleased to notice a number of top-boys, and a market cart, made by Messrs. Hayden & Hambleton of this city, which should draw a premium. A number of cooking stoves were exhibited by Mr. A. H. Neff, together with a lot of tea pots, bird cages, etc. A two and drill press combined, and a patent mangle press, and an extensive screw driver, invented by Odis Deane, and exhibited by N. F. Young, of Richmond, attracted much attention; as also was the case of a number of flour bags, made by the late manufacturing firm of Vaughan Bros. of Richmond, the only exhibitor of the kind South of the Potomac.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.

Knabe's & Sill's piano exhibited by Mr. Heinsberger of this city alone contested for the premium. No more valuable instruments could have been entered and these most necessarily obtain the prize of merit. They are too well known to require description.

ARTICLES OF HOME INDUSTRY.

In this class were many articles entered by our noble ladies, the result of the skill of their untiring fingers. A specimen of domestic carpeting, woven by Mrs. Thos. S. Ashe of Wadesboro; and a specimen of domestic lace, made by Mrs. T. J. Southard; and quilts by Mrs. P. Murphy and Miss Mary B. Weaver, especially attracted us.

POMOLOGICAL AND HORTICULTURAL STAND.

Mr. Frolich's stand.—This was the first object that attracted our attention after we ascended the first flight of stairs of the Exhibition Hall, being as it was, covered with everything that could please the inner man, eye or delight the human taste in the way of fruit, potatoes, vines, pumpkins and other vegetable productions. About the grounds of this stand, a very ingenious design, being a frame of wood covered with the different species of grain arranged according to their color and usefulness. He had also upon his stand an instrument to measure the quantity of sugar in grape juice. A piece also to ascertain the quantity of alcohol; also to find the quantity of temperature, 7,300 pieces of colored corn; beans; all kinds of nuts; berries; acorns; chinquapins; and seeds of all kinds, brought upon the stand the inscription, "Agriculture—the most beautiful, the most useful, the most noble employment of man."—Washington.

2d.—Collection of North Carolina butterflies, 300 different kinds; 3d.—Preserve jellies, pickles, vinegars, syrups, and cider, 12 different kinds of grapes. 16 different kinds of apples, 6 kinds of pears. 3d.—Different garden seeds; box containing a good seedling of seedling, which powdered and ground, and mixed with water, brought forth the Java coffee. Box containing a few Irish potatoes, also, Bohemian sweet potatoes.

Pumpkin man, a very ingenious pumpkin in human shape. We think Mr. Frolich deserves the heartfelt thanks of the Association for his great exertions and his wonderful success in the arrangement of this beautiful and useful stand.

4th.—A collection of the most beautiful and useful productions, and he deserves great credit for his energy, ingenuity and interest in our Fair.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A medicine chest, complete, from the drug store of Messrs. J. W. Lippitt & Co. is worthy of notice. Also a quantity of pure charcoal, oil and spirits of turpentine distilled from the wood by J. D. Stanley. Candies, a rare assortment, by Charlie Banks, the popular confectioner, and made by his own hand. Flour, hominy, meal, bran, corn, dried, etc., from the extensive mills of Mr. A. Oldham of this city.

D. A. Smith—A walnut set of bed-room furniture; the only recommendation we can give is an impartial inspection of his furniture store. George Myers needs no recommendation from us. Brown & Anderson the same. C. R. Banks the same. —Of these and others they did well. General Colston being Commander.

A. R. Black's Stand—Cotton stalks; the best we have seen. Mr. Black uses Dinco's fertilizer, and thinks it the best. He also has Japan clover, which we think deserves inspection and is good for grazing; also, Jersey sweet potatoes—67 bushels to one-third of an acre.

China Glass—the East Halm, being the new favorite to take the place of cotton.

Little River Manufacturing Company—cotton yarns and bolts of cloth from yarn. D. Stanley—T. S. turpentine Retort.

A most splendid article of oil and turpentine for painting and varnishing. A. D. Brown—The name is all that it is necessary to mention. Geo. Z. French—corn of all species; cotton, etc.; we advise you to look at his stand.

Westbrook's—The name is a sufficient guarantee of the quality of the collection of photographs, sent a most beautiful collection of photographs, sent a most beautiful collection of photographs, sent a most beautiful collection of photographs.

We advise all to take a glance at portraits, etc. We advise all to take a glance at portraits, etc. We advise all to take a glance at portraits, etc. We advise all to take a glance at portraits, etc.

The wax cross was the most successful piece of architectural skill that we witnessed at the Fair—exhibited by Mrs. Geo. Chabourn.

Aaron & Rheinstein presented to us a most beautiful specimen of Brussels's carpets.

Topham & Co. stand.—The most beautiful collection of articles that we have seen was that of friend Topham. We all know that he is the best manufacturer of saddles, bridles, etc., in Wilmington, and you will do well to give him a call.

The Fair the first day we think was a most complete success. Everything seemed to be complete to make it a most satisfactory commencement.

for the citizens of New Hanover county, as well as for the citizens of the State.

ENTRIES.

The following entries of articles were made yesterday:

W. A. Cumming, mare, 11 years; W. E. Bowden, stallion, 8 years; J. H. Howard, stallion, 8 years; Geo. Burghin, filly, 2 years; Jas. Kerr, stallion, 5 years; W. L. Howard, mare, 12 months; W. L. Howard, mare, 12 months; C. C. Corbett, gelding, 6 years; J. Murchison, market horse, 7 years; E. Pomery, gelding, 8 years; W. T. Ebert, gelding, 3 years; W. T. Ebert, gelding, 3 years; J. D. Stanley, gelding, 10 years; J. A. Hart, gelding, 7 years; W. Ebert, gelding, 3 years; W. Ebert, gelding, 3 years; C. C. Corbett, gelding, 6 years; J. Murchison, market horse, 7 years; E. Pomery, gelding, 8 years; W. T. Ebert, gelding, 3 years; W. T. Ebert, gelding, 3 years; J. D. Stanley, gelding, 10 years; J. A. Hart, gelding, 7 years; W. Ebert, gelding, 3 years; W. Ebert, gelding, 3 years; C. C. Corbett, gelding, 6 years; J. Murchison, market horse, 7 years; E. Pomery, gelding, 8 years; W. T. Ebert, gelding, 3 years; W. T. Ebert, gelding, 3 years; J. D. Stanley, gelding, 10 years; J. A. 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